GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:873
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2000
JUDICIAL REFORMS
RAM SHAKAL;SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalkout any comprehensive action plan to streamline the judicial system of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal in this regard; and

(c) the manner in which the judicial reform programmes are likely to be funded and implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) and (b): Both Government and judiciary are concerned with streamlining the judicial system of the country which is an on-going and continuous process. Government has been taking a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up the disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission, the MalimathCommittee etc. Keeping this in view, the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill, 1994 has been moved in Parliament. The Law Commission, in its 154th Report has also made a number of recommendations on the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973. Steps have been taken by the High Courts and subordinate courts to reduce and control arrears of cases pursuant to the recommendations of the Malimath Committee. Other steps include increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistratesa nd adoption of alternative modes o f dispute resolution, s uch a s , arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes. Efforts are also being made for improvement in the infrastructure of all courts including the District courts through extensive use of information technology.

(c): A Centrally Sponsored Scheme relating todevelopment of infrastructural facilities for the Judiciary i s being implemented from 1993-94 under which an amount of Rs. 372.66 crore has been released till June, 2000. In addition, pursuant to the recommendation of the XIth Finance Commission, an amountof Rs.502.90 crore for creation of 1,734 additional courts has been sanctioned by the Governemnt specifically for disposal of long pending cases in the district courts and courts subordinate to it over the next five years. These additional courts will dispose of sessions and other criminal cases involving undertrials on priority.